



Town of North Andover

Quarterly Newsletter

News from the Town Manager's Office

JULY 2012 - Issue 24

The work of the Facilities Master Plan Committee was recently completed and their report and recommendations were adopted by the Annual Town Meeting on June 12, 2012. Phase I calls for a new gym at the Kittredge School and the reuse of the former Police Station at Main and Osgood Streets as the School Department Administrative Offices. My recommended Capital Improvement Plan included funding in the upcoming fiscal year for the design component of these two projects. Town Meeting voted unanimously to support that funding request.

During the next five years, the plan calls for the construction of a new fire station to replace the existing Main Street Fire Station, the relocation of the Community Development Division from 1600 Osgood Street to the Main Street Fire

Station location next to Town Hall, and the expansion of the existing Senior Center at its current location. Based on this plan, I recommended, and Town Meeting supported, the sale of the former Bradstreet School on Main Street.

The commitment to improve existing Town buildings, while finding permanent strategically-located homes for our departments, has been the driving focus of this hard working committee. Just as important, this plan will be funded as part of the existing Capital Improvement Plan process without an adverse impact on the Town's operating budget. Stewardship of the Town's infrastructure is an essential component to maintaining or improving the quality of life of our residents. This plan will help us take significant steps towards that goal.

News from the Stevens Estate

The Summer 2012 issue of Merrimack Valley Business Magazine has announced its second '40 Under 40' edition featuring up-and-coming business people who are making a profound difference locally. The issue recognizes "40 leaders and entrepreneurs under 40 years of age who make the Merrimack Valley and Southern New Hampshire a hub of success." Erin Flannery, the Director of the Town of North Andover Stevens Estate, is one of those recognized as "young people making a big difference in the Merrimack Valley of Massachusetts and Southern New Hampshire." Ms. Flannery was

selected from hundreds of nominations received for the honor.

Ms. Flannery began her employment with the Town in January 2011 and has done a remarkable job of promoting and directing the Stevens Estate. The Stevens Estate, owned and operated by the Town and listed on the National Register of Historic Places, with its stately grounds is an ideal setting for a variety of special events, from formal weddings to casual summer outings.

Congratulations and kudos to Erin Flannery, Stevens Estate Director, for this truly outstanding recognition.

News from the Police Department

Summer Vacation Safety Tips

It's that time of year again. School is out and families are taking their annual vacations. Whether you are leaving your house for a few hours for a day at the beach, a few days for a trip to the lake, or a few weeks out of the country, there are a few things you need to do to make sure your home is secure. There is nothing worse than coming home from vacation to see your house broken into, and your sense of security shattered. Trust us when we tell you that we have seen it all too often. Keep these safety tips in mind before you head out:

Lock all windows and doors.

You would be surprised to learn how many houses and cars are broken into simply by turning a doorknob and walking in. Many suspects admit to trying to enter a house by opening the door and walking in as if they actually lived there. Lock and deadbolt all doors and secure all windows. This prevention forces any potential housebreakers to physically "break" something to gain entry. Many of the housebreakers we have arrested recently were caught walking around houses pulling on doors and windows to gain entry. Their ploy is they are lost, asking directions or do you need any home improvements

Have lights on timers, or ask a trusted neighbor or relative to change the position of curtains, or turn other lights on and off.

Having lights switch on and off using a timer, or asking someone to do it for you gives the impression that someone is still inside the home. If potential housebreakers are casing the residence on more than one occasion or over a few days, they may discount your house as a target because they be-

lieve you're home.

Stop mail and paper deliveries during prolonged trips.

Built-up newspapers and mail are an obvious sign that no one is home and that no one has been home for a few days.

Call the police station before you leave for vacation.

Don't forget to call the station and let our dispatch center know about your vacation and leave a contact number where you can be reached. When you call us to let us know you are going on vacation, the information is passed on to patrol units during roll call, so the unit assigned to your sector of town is aware you are not home.

Let us know who will be checking on your house.

Unfortunately with drug abuse and addictions, relatives have sometimes resorted to stealing from their own families. If we happen to come across someone inside your house when we know you are on vacation and that person can't reach you on the phone to prove that they have permission to be there, they may find themselves in a bit of a predicament while we determine if they are or are not supposed to be at your home.

These are some steps you can take to make your house secure and, more importantly, give you peace-of-mind while you are enjoying your summer vacation. If you have any further questions about making your home safe during your vacation, please email crimewatch@napd.us and one of our crime prevention officers will assist you. If you are not on vacation on August 7th please join the North Andover Police Department at the Hayes Stadium behind the Middle School for our annual National Night Out from 6:00pm – 8:pm. We hope you have an enjoyable and safe summer with your family.

News from the Fire Department

Fire Safety is a broad topic which encompasses all of the residents in the Town of North Andover. From an early age our children are educated to the dangers of fire and how to react should they ever experience a fire in their own home. Under the guidance of Lieutenant Bill McCarthy, the SAFE Program, a program to make children aware of the dangers of fire, is delivered to all of the schools in the town in a two part format. First there is a lesson presented by Lt McCarthy and his assistants in the classroom. Subsequently there is a practical application of the lessons learned by utilizing the Fire Safety House. This mobile unit, equipped with smoke detectors is designed similar to a home and it allows the instructors to create a smoke like atmosphere where the student can demonstrate his/ her knowledge of how to crawl low in smoke and escape the situation.

The Fire Department has also developed program tailored

to the seniors in the Town. These range from cooking safety, to careful use of extension cords and outlets and proper storage of food products. Conducting a class for this group of citizens is very productive in that, often times, one question from a resident can open a multitude of others dealing with a wide range of topics.

Though the Fire Department's programs center on the aforementioned age groups, we do offer assistance in other areas, in particular in the business sector. The Fire Department is often asked to conduct a fire drill for the local business owner. These drills prove to be valuable to both parties as they point out issues which otherwise would have gone unnoticed.

The Fire Department will continue to be proactive in the area of Fire Education. By so doing we are confident that this policy will help to insure the safety of all our citizens.

News from the Division of Community Development

Public Health Note:

Effective July 1, 2012, home sharps, as well as unopened packages of hypodermic needles and lancets, shall not be disposed of in solid municipal waste, including household waste, and shall be collected and disposed of in accordance with the requirements outlined in recent amended state regulations. The Massachusetts Department of Public Health Bureaus of Environmental Health (BEH) and Infectious Disease (BID) believe this is necessary to "ensure the safe, secure and accessible collection and disposal of hypodermic needles and lancets."

The North Andover Health Department, located at 1600 Osgood Street, has accepted containers of sharps free of charge for N. Andover residents for decades and will continue to do so. Sharps containers should be brought to the Health Department or other announced locations. Please see the Town Website for details on additional disposal options and new locations that will soon accept containers of sharps. Or call the Health Department Info line at 978 688- 9598.

Thank you for doing your part to protect the health and safety of the solid waste collection employees and the environment.

Healthy Household Habits for Clean Water

As stormwater flows over driveways, lawns and sidewalks, it picks up debris, chemicals dirt and other pollutants. Stormwater can flow into a storm sewer system or directly to a lake, stream, river or wetland. Anything that enters a storm sewer system is discharged untreated into the water bodies of North Andover many of which are used for swimming, fishing and providing drinking water. Adopt these healthy household habits and help protect North Andover's lakes, streams, rivers, and wetlands!

Vehicle & Garage

- Check your car, boat, motorcycle, and other machinery and equipment for leaks and spills. Make repairs as soon as possible. Clean up spilled fluids with an absorbent material like kitty litter or sand, and don't rinse the spills into a nearby storm drain. Remember to properly dispose of absorbent material.

- Recycle used oil and other automotive fluids at participating service stations or the store where you purchased the oil. Don't dump those chemicals down the storm drain or dispose of them in your trash.

Lawn & Garden

- Use pesticides and fertilizers sparingly or not at all when near a drinking water supply. When use is necessary, use these chemicals in the recommended amounts. Avoid application if the forecast calls for rain; otherwise chemicals will be washed into your local stream or wetland.

- Select native plants and grasses that are drought- and pest-resistant. Native plants require less water, fertilizer, and pesticides.

- Sweep up yard debris, rather than hosing down areas. Compost or recycle yard waste when possible.

Home Repair & Improvement

- Before beginning an outdoor project, locate the nearest storm drains and protect them from debris and other material.
- Clean paint brushes in a sink, not outdoors. Filter and re-use paint thinner when using oil-based paints. Properly dispose of excess paints through a town hazardous waste collection day, or donate unused paint to local organizations.
- Reduce the amount of paved area and increase the amount of vegetated area in your yard. Consider directing downspouts away from paved surfaces onto lawns or gardens to increase infiltration and reduce polluted runoff.

Pet Care

- When walking your pet, remember to pick up the waste and dispose of it properly. Leaving pet waste on the ground increases public health risks by allowing harmful bacteria and nutrients to wash into the storm drain and eventually into North Andover wetlands and waterways.

Storm Drains Connect to Waterbodies!

Information from www.epa.gov/npdes/stormwater

